

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03499 211138Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 211055Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5799

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3499

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, SN, US
SUBJECT: GOS REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT FOR NEW AMBASSADOR TO
WASHINGTON

1. I WAS CALLED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AFTERNOON OF JULY 21
BY DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL GEORGE SEOW AND PRESENTED WITH NOTE
REQUESTING AGREEMENT FOR MR. PUNCH COOMARASWAMY AS SINGAPORE'S
AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. TO SUCCEED PROFESSOR ERNEST STEVEN MONTEIRO,
WHO WILL BE COMPLETING ASSIGNMENT AROUND END OF AUGUST.

2. MR COOMARASWAMY PRESENTLY IS SINGAPORE HIGH COMMISSIONER
IN CANBERRA. HE WAS BORN OCTOBER 16, 1925 IN SEGAMAT, JAHORE AND
IS A SINGAPORE CITIZEN. HE HAS A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER
IN THE LAW AND IN PUBLIC SERVICE IN SINGAPORE SUBSEQUENT TO HIS
GRADUATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM IN 1954 AND BEING
CALLED TO THE BAR AT LINCOLN'S INN IN 1956. PREVIOUS TO HIS
PRESENT ASSIGNMENT HE WAS SINGAPORE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN NEW
DELHI. HE HAS ALSO SERVED AS DEPUTY SPEAKER AND SPEAKER OF THE
SINGAPORE PARLIAMENT IN 1966-70 AND WAS ACTING PRESIDENT OF
SINGAPORE IN 1968. ACCORDING TO MR. SEOW, HE IS CLOSE TO PRIME
MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW.

3. MR. SEOW EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE OBTAINED AT
AN EARLY DATE SO THAT MR. COOMARASWAMY WILL BE ABLE TO ASSUME
HIS DUTIES IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO THE U.S. ELECTIONS (HOPEFULLY
NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER) WHICH HE WISHES TO OBSERVE.

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 03499 211138Z

4. MR. SEOW ALSO REQUESTED INFORMATION ON PRESENT PROCEDURES FOR

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT AND DESCRIPTION
OF HONORS WHICH WOULD BE RENDERED IN COURSE OF PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

5. NOTE REQUESTING AGREEMENT AND CURRICULM VITAE OF MR. COOMARASWAMY
BEING POUCHED JULY 23.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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